

2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Kelly Allotment #428

Prepared By:

District Range Staff

Date: _____

Approved By:

DEBBIE C CRESS /s/
District Ranger

Date: -----12/9/13---

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document discussions between Kendall Brown and Allen Graves (FS), and Danny Fryar, Jimmy Serna, and Danny & Genevieve Montoya (permittees) on December 19, 2013 at the Glenwood Ranger District Office.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Danny & Jacqueline Fryar	49 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28
Lewis Kelly	41 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Jimmy Serna	14 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Danny & Jacqueline Fryar	49 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28
Lewis Kelly	41 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Jimmy Serna	14 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/30	Spurgeon/West
Cow/Calf	05/01 – 05/31	Willy Holding
Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/15	Middle
Cow/Calf	Fall Weaning	Willy Holding
Cow/Calf	10/16 – 02/28	Spurgeon/West
Cow/Calf	Rest	Sally/East

Note: No livestock grazing is authorized in the San Francisco River, except designated water points

Middle & Big Pastures were rested in GY 2013.

Willy Holding gets light use. Used only during gathering/branding.

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must

notify the District Ranger of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved by the District Ranger verbally or in writing.

The District Ranger must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest if the placing on or removal of livestock is not planned in the above schedule, and more than 10 head are being moved.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Highest priority this year will be to reconstruct and repair fences and water points on the San Francisco River. Kendall will work with you to identify waterpoint fence locations on Martin private land. Kendall will work with you to develop solutions that will provide livestock water and keep cattle from grazing within the San Francisco River riparian area.

The following permit modifications have been authorized for the allotment.

Permittee	Modification #	Type	Remarks
Kelly		Spurgeon Tank (Pending dry conditions)	Needs to be cleaned

You requested permission to divide Spurgeon Pasture. Permittees have flagged in a proposed alignment. Kendall will arrange clearances. This fence will improve distribution and allow more control over use. This will provide additional recovery opportunities. It will provide a beginning for moving toward a shorter spring calving season any may improve calving percentages.

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District may allow naturally ignited fires to burns on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire burn on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of

materials and labor constituting your contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers; dates of entering and leaving pastures, shipping dates and cattle losses (grown stock and calves). This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal, prior to, or at the time, the livestock are taken off the allotment. **You will be required to provide your Social Security or Tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.**

A \$25 administrative fee will be charged for any additional bills for collection that are sent to you due to either late payment or for split billing on seasonal allotments. This fee will be collected to pay for the cost associated with issuing an additional bill for collection. There is no administrative fee for the normal "split billing" on yearlong allotments.

It is necessary for you to write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox. This is necessary to insure that your payment is credited to your account.

5. Short Age Calf Policy: Any short-aged calves (calves less than 6 months old on December 31) must be removed from the National Forest by April 1, or you will need to apply for and pay grazing fees for these animals from April 1 to the time they are removed from the National Forest. Calves that are 6 months old or older on December 31 need to be paid for starting January 1.

6. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of energy supplements on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
- b. Feeding of hay on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be **certified weed free** hay and you must provide the proper documentation.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks or molasses licks on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- d. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Kelly Allotment has been analyzed through the NEPA analysis process. The resulting decision meets Forest Plan standards and guidelines. This decision, along with the terms of your Ten-Year Term Permit and these Annual Operating Instructions, provides direction for management on this allotment.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You are in favor of Fire Use on your allotment. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

Discussed future range developments such as:

- Installing a pipeline (approximately 4 miles) to provide reliable water in Spurgeon Pasture from Brushy Well into various locations within the pasture. Please coordinate with Kendall to develop a proposal on the ground. A well may be installed at Dark Skies Campground in the future that would partially negate this pipeline need.
- Little Joe trick tank is functional, needs some work on the drinker due to leaks.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. The forecast for the upcoming spring is dry. Forage conditions are expected to be average. If stockwater is not available, livestock distribution and use may need to be altered by herding, salting etc.

VIII. UTILIZATION MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

Utilization management objectives for key perennial species:

Key species	Season	Allowable Stubble heights and their % equivalents
Blue grama	Growing	2.5 inches (30% or Light use)
Blue grama	Dormant	2.0 inches (35% or Moderate use)
Sideoats grama	Growing	9+ inches (30% or Light use)
Sideoats grama	Dormant	8+ inches (35% or Moderate use)

(From Table 2. Grazing Intensity Guide. ...Rangelands 22(3) Holechek and Galt, June 2000).

You will be invited to participate in monitoring during the grazing season. Results will be used to develop the grazing strategy for next year's Annual Operating Instructions. Monitoring will consist of minimum stubble height measurements in key areas, or a photo of the key area when key species growth is clearly greater than the minimum stubble height. Stubble heights are to be at least 1.2+ inches on "sodbound" Blue grama and 2.5+ inches on the "bunchgrass" Blue grama sites.

Stubble height measurements (monitoring) will be taken on key species growth from the most recent growing season (current year's growth). The length should be measured in inches and averaged by plant species measured. The interval for measurement should be every other pace, with measurements taken on the closest key plant species.

Monitoring is scheduled for the following dates and you are highly encouraged to participate:

Monitoring Schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Stubble Heights	Key Area
West	05/01	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C6
Spurgeon	05/01	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C7, C1
Middle	10/15	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C3, C4
Willy (Holding)	10/15	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C5
Middle	Rest in 2014	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	

Monitoring of utilization on woody riparian will be conducted in the areas below and concurrently with the associated pasture. (See Table Below).

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Sally & East	San Francisco River between the East & Sally pastures.	Excluded geographically & by fencing.	0% with the exception of two designated watering points.*
Holding	San Francisco River that borders the Holding pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of one designated watering point.*
Middle	San Francisco River that borders the Middle pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of one designated watering point.*
Spurgeon Mesa	San Francisco River that borders the Spurgeon Mesa pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0%
Sally	Saliz Creek that borders the Sally pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0%

* The allowable use for water points is for woody riparian not to exceed 25% of stems in a watering point heavily hedged.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District to obtain approval of change(s). Advanced notice of change is requested so that field inspections can be conducted. Verbal approval of changes will be followed with a letter documenting the change. Failure to follow the instructions provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).